

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.

I have had to buy far too much equipment! After Northpoint failed, I had to buy equipment over again to go with Covad. Cable broadband is not available in this town and AT+T is in no hurry. Chaiman Powell, it is time to start thinking about consumers. SBC said DSL wouldn't work at my house, funny, Covad had no problems and it is running on SBC wires. SBC does not have consumers interest in mind either. Service has declined, and costs have gone up since SBC took over Ameritech. I think giving SBC "more control" is a terrible idea!